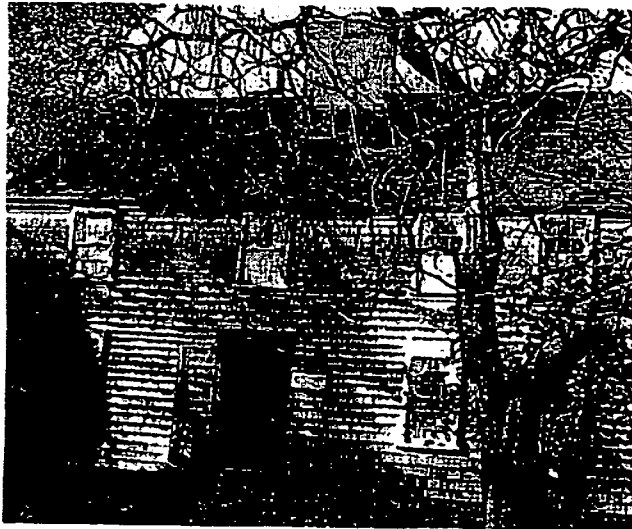


John Alden House Museum Reopens



Duxbury Clipper, Wednesday, May 7, 1997

However, each year the Alden House holds its "Duxbury Days" during which all residents of Duxbury are invited, free of charge. As has been our custom in the past, these will also be our opening days - Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18.

During the opening weekend, you will find a "dig" in full progress. Under the direction of Mitchell Mulholland, archeological director of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, the site of a proposed barn will be thoroughly excavated. This is a follow-up of exploratory excavations that were done in October, 1995. Come and see what they find. Work will start on Thursday, May 15 and continue to the following Monday, so you may be able to catch them at work on these days as well. Watch for announcements of other events including a Revolutionary War encampment (June 28-29), and an Antique Appraisal Day by Skinner Auction Galleries.

The John Alden House was built in 1653 on a large land grant given to John and Priscilla in 1627. For the next few years, this couple and their rapidly growing family spent summers in Duxbury, returning to Plymouth for the rest of the year. They moved to Duxbury for good in 1632 with the gathering of a church there by Elder William Brewster. A smaller home was built on a rise of land behind the present school complex. The foundation of that house is visible today. It is believed that this first home was moved to the location of the present house and was incorporated as the kitchen, burning room and pantry of the "new" structure. John and Priscilla died in the existing house, John being the last surviving signer of the Mayflower Compact. The house itself is the only structure built by a Mayflower Pilgrim that is still in existence. Other "Pilgrim homes" were built by children or other descendants of the original founders or are reproductions such as you will find in Plimoth Plantation. Now owned by the Alden Kindred of America, Inc., this property has been in the Alden family since 1627.

The John Alden House offers visitors a first hand look at how America changed over the first 300 years of its existence. Museum staff presents a unique view of how one family over many generations was influenced

by, and even influenced American history.

The interesting features of the house are the oyster shell ceiling in the "Best Room," the exposed gunstock beams, the good morning staircase, and many pieces of early American furniture and artifacts, all located where they were normally used. Items found during archaeological excavations at the "old site" are also on display; you can visit this site if you wish. There is a gift shop on the premises. Picnicking is permitted.

Volunteers are Welcome

You are welcome to join the Alden Kindred. You do NOT need to be a Pilgrim descendant. Some of our most enthusiastic volunteers have been people with a love of history and who feel strongly about our Pilgrim heritage but have no direct with a Pilgrim ancestor. Whatever your interest, from conducting tours, working with school groups, historical research or genealogy, helping with seminars, working with computers, maintaining our physical properties, or just about any other area you can think of, we can use your help.

If you want to know more about the Alden House Museum, programs, or would like to volunteer call the Alden House Museum at 934-9092. If you are connected to the Internet, you can check our schedule of activities at www.duxburymass.com. Or you can E-mail the Director, Bob Edmunds, at QUPA47A@Prodigy.com.

John Alden House Museum reopens Saturday, May 17, for the 1997 season - Duxbury Days set as May 17 and 18.

The John Alden House will open on Saturday, May 17. It will be open on Saturdays and Sundays. In July and August, it will remain open every day except Monday. During September and until Oct. 18, the house will be open only on weekends. Opening hours are 10-5 with guided tours throughout the day. Admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for students 12 and over. Younger children, accompanied by adults, are free. Maximum charge per family is \$10.